



VI. PUBLIC FACILITIES DESIGN GUIDELINES

The following guidelines apply to the design of Public Facilities, as well as public open spaces such as parks, plazas, and courtyards. While specific guidelines addressing site design, parking and loading, architectural design, landscape design, walls and fences, lighting and signs applicable to industrial and business park development set forth in the previous section should be applied per the nature and scope of each Public Facilities development project, some general design guidelines are as follows.

- ❖ Create beautiful public places and spaces that promote civic pride. Utilize historic, cultural, and architectural themes in the design of these types of buildings that provide a connection to Riverside's rich culture.
- ❖ Site public facilities such as community centers, parks, libraries, performing art centers, etc. with high pedestrian accessibility and visual prominence from the street. With newly developed areas of the City, site these facilities in close proximity to residential and/or mixed use areas.
- ❖ Incorporate open space areas such as plazas, courtyards, and paseos.
 - Cluster buildings on the site to create pedestrian open space areas, plazas, and courtyards.
 - Include water features, heavy use of landscaping, public art, sitting areas and benches shaded by trees, special paving treatments, and attractive lighting and signage into the design of these spaces.
 - Provide for trail development and maintenance or a connection to trails as shown in the General Plan when these facilities are in the vicinity of planned trails.





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A. OPEN SPACE, PARKS, PLAZAS, AND COURTYARDS

Open space areas, parks, plazas, and courtyards are fundamental features of a livable and enjoyable city. Parks and plazas can reinforce retail and residential areas by creating suitable gathering spaces for informational and recreational purposes. These spaces provide points to draw pedestrians in the walkable city. Guidelines for parks, plazas, courtyards, and other open space areas are as follows.

1. Parks and plazas should be placed adjacent to public streets, residential areas, and retail uses for high visibility and accessibility.
2. Parks and plazas should be designed for both active and passive uses. They should reflect and reinforce the character of the surrounding area and accommodate anticipated intensity of use.
3. Parks and plazas should provide an adequate balance of shade and sunny areas for year-long use.
4. Parks and plazas should provide necessary amenities such as drinking fountains, benches, and trash receptacles.



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5. Perimeter fencing around open space areas, parks, and plazas should be avoided.
6. Creative lighting sources should be included in the design of parks and plazas
7. Landscaping within and adjacent to natural open space areas should reflect the natural character of these areas with the use of native planting materials. Pedestrian and bicycle access, where applicable, to these areas should be included in the design.



B. CITYWIDE STREET IMPROVEMENTS

The following guidelines apply to public improvements intended to enhance overall neighborhood quality. Area-wide improvements and recommended street treatments to support safe, visually attractive access to pedestrians and residents are as follows:

1. Entry markers are encouraged to be located within the public right-of-way at major intersections, specifically at entrances to neighborhoods and business districts. Signage should be in the form of individual channeled letters, engraved into the marker. Landscaping and up-lighting should be incorporated.
2. Street amenities including street furniture, trash receptacles, and lighting are recommended. The design of these amenities is encouraged to include Riverside's unique local history and culture.
3. Street lighting such as street lamps reflects a human scale and should be incorporated as street improvements occur.
4. Landscaping in the form of street trees, planters, and pots in the public parkway is encouraged. The use of protective and decorative tree wells is encouraged for street trees.





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5. Particularly for new residential developments, landscaped parkways with street trees with the public right-of-way shall be required and to be located between the curb and the sidewalk.
6. Decorative accent paving material is encouraged for major intersections and pedestrian crosswalks within the City.
7. Visual focal points such as fountains and public art are encouraged in areas deemed appropriate. Landscaping and lighting should be incorporated to frame and highlight the artwork.

